

**SAVANNAH'S
ANTI-POVERTY TASK FORCE**

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, September, 23, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
St. Mary's Community Center

I. Welcome and Introductions - Anne Roise (5 min)

II. Housekeeping (5 min)

- A. Updated Task Force Contact List / Sign-in Sheet
- B. Task Force Listserve - John Paul Berlon

III. Review of last meeting (5 min)

IV. Host Spotlight: St. Mary's Community Center – Sr. Pat Baber (10 min)

V. Update on Study on Persistent Poverty in the South (15 min)

VI. Reports from Sub-Committees

- 1. Living Wage – Bernie Polite (10 min)
 - a. New leadership
 - b. Task Force input
 - c. Next sub-committee meeting
- 2. Case Management Systems – Julie Lamy (10 min)
 - a. Task Force input
 - b. Next sub-committee meeting
- 3. Resource Collaboration – John Paul Berlon (10 min)
 - a. Task Force input
 - b. Next sub-committee meeting

VII. Next Steps & Assignments (10 min)

VIII. Information Sharing (time permitting)

- A. Upcoming Task Force member events
- B. Other announcements

IX. Upcoming Task Force Meetings & Venues

October 28	Chatham-Savannah Authority for the Homeless
November 18*	United Way of the Coastal Empire
December _____	_____
January _____	_____

* Date moved to 3rd Tuesday of the month due to the Thanksgiving holiday.

SAVANNAH'S ANTI-POVERTY TASK FORCE

Summary of Meeting

Tuesday, September 23, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
St. Mary's Community Center

I. Welcome and Introductions

Attending: Sr. Pat Baber, John Paul Berlon, Tina Bonifacio, Alan Bray, Craig Cashman, Edward Chisolm, Ernest Dailey, Carole Fireall, Michael Freeman, Stephen George, Gwen Glover, Alex Ikefuna, Julie Lamy, Bernard Polite, Charlotte Rehmert, Anne Roise, Gena Taylor, Ruthann Walsh, Tom Wilson.

II. Housekeeping

A. The Task Force contact list was circulated for corrections and additions.

B. Listserve recap: The City will help moderate messages until John Paul Berlon and the Fair Housing Council's internet issues are resolved. The following are the key addresses for the listserv.

1. aptaskforce@yahoogroups.com

This address will send your e-mail to the entire Task Force. The e-mail will need to be moderated by Julie and/or John Paul. Please contact either one of them if you've sent an e-mail to this address, especially if its time sensitive.

2. aptfresource@yahoogroups.com

This is the e-mail address for the Resource Collaboration Subcommittee.

3. aptfcasemgt@yahoogroups.com

This is the e-mail address for the Case Management Subcommittee. It will be up and running in the next two weeks.

4. The Living Wage Subcommittee:

If you have any questions about the list serve, please contact John Paul Berlon at johnpaul@savannahfairhousing.org / 912-651-3136 or Julie Lamy at Julie_Lamy@ci.savannah.ga.us / 912-651-3653.

III. Review of last meeting

The August 26 meeting summary was approved as presented.

IV. Host Spotlight: St. Mary's Community Center

Since April 2000, St. Mary's Community Center has served as a community outreach program of St. Joseph's/Candler in the Cuyler-Brownsville neighborhood. The Center bases its programming on the neighborhood's needs and provides health services, job training, and educational training. The Center partners with cardiovascular clinics, Savannah Tech (Workforce Readiness Academy) and NIA (VITA – EITC training). For more information about the Center, contact Task Force member Sister Pat Baber.

V. Update on Study on Persistent Poverty

- A. The draft letter developed by the Task Force workgroup (Dr. Victoria Bertolozzi, Dr. Shirley Geiger and Gena Taylor) responding to *the Study on Persistent Poverty* gained attention on the state level. Future research and potential funding will focus on rural AND urban poverty in Georgia and within the region.
- B. Dr. Joseph Whorton of UGA spoke with the workgroup, Task Force and subcommittee heads on September 18 to discuss the Task Force letter, the Task Force initiatives and the development of a Poverty Center at UGA. The Center will serve 3 purposes:
 - 1. Educational: focus on the prevalence and persistence of poverty in rural and urban Georgia - for faculty, staff and students at UGA.
 - 2. Outreach/Public Service: connect with local level efforts addressing poverty serve as portal for best practices on the local level – would like to partner with the Task Force.
 - 3. Outreach/Geographic region: focus on poverty research on the 7 states in the historic “Black Belt”, provide best practice resources within the region.

Dr. Whorton, the guest speaker for the Task Force’s October meeting, will provide additional details about this initiative.

VI. Reports from Sub-Committees

1. Living Wage

- A. Due to potential Living Wage subcommittee initiatives and the need for neutrality, Mr. Bernie Polite has taken over as the head of the subcommittee. Tom Wilson and Alan Bray of the MPC will still participate on the subcommittee.
- B. Subcommittee direction:
 - a. The subcommittee will use existing research and look for additional research on the correlation between a living wage and cost of living. The compiled data will be shared with the Task Force.
 - b. The subcommittee suggested developing a forum on poverty in which the Living Wage among other topics is discussed.
 - c. The subcommittee will research the demand-side of the Living Wage by gathering employer information.
 - d. The subcommittee discussed improving the accessibility of information out in the fields to make sure case managers are connected to employers (i.e., DOL job listings) and potential employees (i.e., low-income/poverty level families).
- C. The subcommittee will meet on **Thursday, October 9 at 3pm**, Coastal Workforce Services. For more information, contact Mr. Bernie Polite at <bpolite02@comcast.net>.

2. Case Management Systems

- A. Survey Update: The Case Management Systems subcommittee is in the information gathering stage of the first agency survey. The participating agencies (DFCS, EOA/Tom Austin House, HAS, NIA, St. Mary's Community Center and St. Pius X FRC) are currently completing surveys for 5-10 *At-Risk* Families. The subcommittee will hold a roundtable discussion on **Wednesday, October 22 from 10-12** at the Savannah Entrepreneurial Center to discuss the survey results and prepare information for the Task Force's October meeting.
- B. Task Force member, Craig Cashman, has offered support for the subcommittee through the CSHA's Continuum of Care and its Americorps program. The subcommittee hopes to have an Americorps volunteer on board by the October Task Force meeting.
- C. The subcommittee has been charged with the task of developing short and long-term goals. (Thanks to the example set by the Resource Collaboration subcommittee and Bernie Polite's recommendation.) The subcommittee will develop these following the completion of the first survey.
- D. Task Force members who are interested in joining the Case Management Systems sub-committee may contact Julie Lamy at 651-3653 or julie_lamy@ci.savannah.ga.us. The sub-committee's minutes, information and the At-Risk Survey Kit are also posted on the listserve at <<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/aptfcasemgt>>.

3. Resource Collaboration

- A. John Paul Berlon distributed and explained the subcommittee's long and short-term goals. Please view them on the Task Force's listserve.
- B. If anyone is interested in the subcommittee's work with Savannah PD's homeless contact, please contact Yvonne Davis 651-3653.

VII. Next Steps & Assignments

- 1. Volunteer opportunities for subcommittees still exist!
 - a. Each subcommittee will move forward on their initiatives. Any Task Force members not currently serving on a subcommittee, but interested in doing so, should contact the subcommittee head:
 Living Wage Subcommittee: Bernie Polite (bpolite02@comcast.net, 398-4945).
 Case Management Systems Subcommittee: Julie Lamy (Julie_Lamy@ci.savannah.ga.us, 651-3653).
 Resource Collaboration Subcommittee: John Paul Berlon (johnpaul@savannahfairhousing.org, 651-3136).
- 2. The Living Wage and Case Management Systems subcommittee will follow the example set by the Resource Collaboration subcommittee and develop short and long-term goals for dissemination at the October Task Force meeting.

3. Information Sharing

Task Force member events announced at Task Force meetings will be posted collectively (on one document) and e-mailed to the Task Force one week after the monthly meeting. This should reduce the number of e-mails notices. To submit information (upcoming events and other announcements), contact Julie no later than the Friday following the monthly Task Force meetings.

VIII. Upcoming Task Force Meetings & Venues

October 28	JC Lewis Health Center (host: CSAH)
November 18*	United Way of the Coastal Empire
December 16*	Lutheran Services of Georgia
January 27	Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce

* Date moved to 3rd Tuesday of the month due to the holidays.